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15 Jan 1875 <::><::><::> 9 Nov 1953



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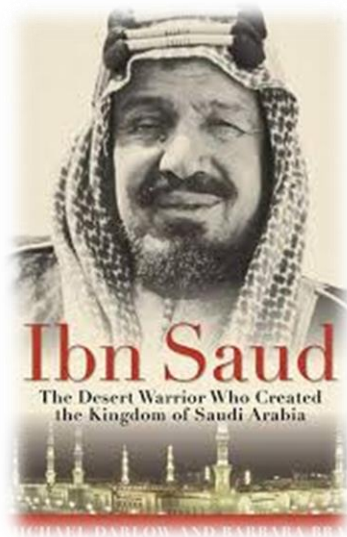
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9 Nov 1953



Ibn Saud

**The Desert Warrior Who Created
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

by [Michael Darlow](#) (Author) & [Barbara Bray](#) (Author)

Ibn Saud grew to manhood living the harsh traditional life of the desert nomad, a life that had changed little since the days of Abraham. Equipped with immense physical courage, he fought and won, often with weapons and tactics not unlike those employed by the ancient Assyrians, a series of astonishing military victories over a succession of enemies much more powerful than himself. Over the same period, he transformed himself from a minor sheikh into a revered king and elder statesman, courted by world leaders such as Churchill and Roosevelt. A

passionate lover of women, Ibn Saud took many wives, had numerous concubines, and fathered almost one hundred children. Yet he remained an unswerving and devout Muslim, described by one who knew him well at the time of his death in 1953 as “probably the greatest Arab since the Prophet Muhammad.” Saudi Arabia, the country Ibn Saud created, is a staunch ally of the West, but it is also the birthplace of Osama bin Laden and fifteen of the nineteen 9/11 hijackers. Saud’s kingdom, as it now stands, has survived the vicissitudes of time and become an invaluable player on the world’s political stage.

Abdulaziz

Imam of Nejd



Official portrait, 1940s

King of Saudi Arabia

Reign 23 September 1932 – 9 November 1953

Bay'ah 23 September 1932

Predecessor *Post established*

Successor Saud

Emir/Sultan/King of Nejd

Reign 13 January 1902 – 23 September 1932^{[\[note 1\]](#)}

Predecessor Abdulaziz bin Mutaib (as Emir of Jabal Shammar)

Successor Himself (as King of Saudi Arabia)

King of Hejaz

Reign 8 January 1926 – 23 September 1932^{[\[note 1\]](#)}

Predecessor	Ali bin Hussein
Successor	Himself (as King of Saudi Arabia)
Born	15 January 1875 <div>Riyadh, Emirate of Nejd</div>
Died	9 November 1953 (aged 78) <div>Shubra Palace, Ta'if, Saudi Arabia</div>
Burial	Al Oud cemetery , Riyadh , Saudi Arabia
Spouses	show <div>See list</div>
Issue <div><i>among others...</i></div>	show <div>See list</div>
Names	Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Faisal Al Saud
House	Al Saud
Father	Abdul Rahman bin Faisal Al Saud
Mother	Sara bint Ahmed Al Sudairi
Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal chieftain religious leader politician^{[<i>note</i> 2]}
Military career	
Allegiance	Saudi Arabia
Battles / wars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battle of Riyadh First Saudi—Rashidi War Conquest of al-Hasa Battle of Kanzan Al-Khurma dispute Second Saudi—Rashidi War Saudi conquest of Hejaz Ikhwan Revolt Saudi–Yemeni border skirmish Najran conflict Idrisid Emirate Rebellion Saudi–Yemeni War First Arab–Israeli War Buraimi dispute

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Saud

Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud (*Arabic:* عبد العزيز بن عبد الرحمن آل سعود; 15 January 1875 – 9 November 1953), known in the Western world mononymously as **Ibn Saud** (*Arabic:* ابن سعود; *Ibn Suʿūd*), was the founder and first [king of Saudi Arabia](#), reigning from 23 September 1932 until

his death in 1953. He had ruled parts of the kingdom since 1902, having previously been [Emir](#), [Sultan](#), and [King of Nejd](#), and [King of Hejaz](#).

Ibn Saud was the son of [Abdul Rahman bin Faisal, Emir of Nejd](#), and [Sara bint Ahmed Al Sudairi](#). The family were exiled from their residence in the city of [Riyadh](#) in 1890. Ibn Saud reconquered Riyadh in 1902, starting three decades of conquests that made him the ruler of nearly all of central and north Arabia. He consolidated his control over the [Nejd](#) in 1922, then conquered the [Hejaz](#) in 1925. He extended his dominions into what later became the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932. Ibn Saud's victory and his support for [Islamic revivalists](#) would greatly bolster [pan-Islamism](#) across the [Islamic world](#). Concurring with [Wahhabi](#) beliefs, he ordered the demolition of several shrines, the [Al-Baqi Cemetery](#) and the [Jannat al-Mu'alla](#). As King, he presided over the [discovery of petroleum in Saudi Arabia](#) in 1938 and the beginning of large-scale oil production after [World War II](#). He fathered [many children](#), including 45 sons, and all of the subsequent kings of Saudi Arabia as of 2025.

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Message on the Death of King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/message-the-death-king-ibn-saud-saudi-arabia>



34th President of the United States: 1953 - 1961

Message on the Death of King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia.

November 11, 1953

His Majesty

Saud ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud
King of Saudi Arabia

It is with a profound sense of loss that I express my deepest sympathy to the Royal Family and people of Saudi Arabia upon the death of their illustrious father and ruler, King Abdul Aziz al Saud. His Majesty's statesmanship and sagacity as a ruler endeared him to the hearts of his people and won him universal renown. The American people were proud to count him and his nation among their most trusted and valued friends.

On this solemn occasion I wish to extend to Your Majesty, as your father's worthy successor, my good wishes upon your accession to the throne. I am confident that the warm bonds of friendship and mutual interest, which have bound our two countries so closely in the past, will remain firm and enduring under your able guidance. The people of Saudi Arabia are indeed fortunate to have their destiny served by a ruler so progressive and devoted to their welfare as yourself.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

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Kindly visit the Web Link to see
MORE than 400 pictures/photos/images

<https://www.gettyimages.in/search/2/image?phrase=ibn+saud+of+saudi+arabia>

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KSA History

<https://www.mofa.gov.sa/en/ksa/Pages/history.aspx>

Al Saud Descent

Al Saud Family originates from the ancient Arab tribe of Banu hanifa, who belonged to Banu Bakr, son of Wa'il which descended from the large Rabi'ah branch of Adnanite tribes, a tribal confederation historically located in the Najd.

Banu hanifa tribe's original lands were in Wadi al-irrdh , which later came to bear their name (wadi-hanifa) at the dawn of Islam, though in the pre-islamic era it was known as Wadi Alyamamah.

The House of Al Saud traces its origins back from ancient times in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula. It is linked with a deep history and noble descent.

The First Saudi State [1139 - 1233 AH / 1727 - 1818 AD]

In the early 18th century, the Arabian Peninsula was full of chaos and political instability. Historians described the political and social situation in the Arabian Peninsula in that period as disintegrated and unsecured, with lots of rival scattered emirates.

The first Saudi State was established in 1139 AH / 1727 AD in Al-Dir'iya, its capital, by Imam Muhammad bin Saud.

The imams of the first Saudi state were able to unify the Arabian Peninsula and develop a new era of stability and security by imposing Islamic Law (Sharia) in all aspects of life. As a result of the First Saudi State, a lot of scientists emerged. Also, knowledge, and scientific and economic aspects prospered.

A lot of institutions and administrative systems were established. The first Saudi State became a state with a great political status as a result of Islamic principles. It has extended its influence to most parts of the Arabian Peninsula. Its rulers followed a balanced policy on the basis of the victory of Islam, community service and advancement of its civilization level.

This First Saudi State ended in 1233 AH / 1818 AD , when Ottoman troops invaded the Arabian Peninsula under the command of Ibrahim, the son of Mohammed Ali Pasha, governor of Egypt.

Ibrahim Pasha besieged Al-Dir'iyah after many battles, he Demolished and destroyed most parts of the First Saudi State in the Arabian Peninsula.

The rulers of the first Saudi state:

Imam Muhammad ibn Saud, (1139 - 1179 AH/ 1727-1765 AD)

1. Imam Abdul Aziz ibn Muhammad ibn Saud (1179-1218 AH/ 1765-1803 AD)
2. Imam Saud ibn Abdul Aziz ibn Muhammad ibn Saud (1218-1229 AH /1803-1814 AD)
3. Abdullah bin Saud (1229-1233 AH/ 1814-1818 AD)

The Second Saudi State [1240 - 1309 AH / 1824 - 1891 AD]

Despite the devastation caused by Muhammad Ali's forces, led by Ibrahim Pasha, in the middle of the Arabian Peninsula, the demolition of Diriyah, and the destruction of many countries, in addition to the spread of fear, Muhammad Ali's forces could not break the elements of the Saudi state. Residents in urban and rural areas remained loyal to Al Saud family, who founded the first Saudi state. They continued their appreciation for their treatment and their wise leadership, they also went on supporting the Salafi movement. Less than two years after the end of the first Saudi state, leaders of Al Saud emerged once again to re-establish the Saudi state.

The first attempt was in 1235 AH / 1820 AD when Prince Mishari bin Saud tried to re-establish the Saudi rule in Diriyah but lasted only a few months, followed by a successful attempt led by Imam Turki bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Saud in 1240 AH / 1824 AD which led to the establishment of the second Saudi state and its capital Riyadh.

The second Saudi state continued on the same foundations and pillars upon which the first Saudi state was based on, in terms of its reliance on Islam, and deployment of security and stability, and the application of Islamic law(Sharia).

The administrative and financial systems were similar to those in the first Saudi state, and arts and sciences prospered in the Second Saudi State.

The rulers of the second Saudi state:

1. Imam Turki bin Abdullah bin mohammed bin Saud :1240 - 1249 AH / 1824 - 1834 AD.
2. Imam Faisal bin Turki :
 1. first period: 1250 - 1254 AH / 1834 - 1838 AD.
 2. Second period: 1259 - 1282 AH / 1843 - 1865 AD.
3. Imam Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki: First Period : 1282 - 1288 AH/ 1865 - 1871 AD
4. Imam Saud bin Faisal bin Turki : 1288 - 1291 AH / 1871 - 1875 AD
5. Imam Abdul Rahman bin Faisal bin Turki : First Period : 1391 - 1393 AH/ 1875 - 1876 AD.
6. Imam Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki: Second Period : 1293 - 1305 AH / 1876 - 1887 AD
7. Imam Abdul Rahman bin Faisal bin Turki : Second Period : 1307 - 1309 AH/ 1889 - 1891 AD.

The Third Saudi State the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In the 5th of Shawwal 1319 AH / January the 15th, 1902 AD, King AbdulAziz bin AbdulRahman bin Faisal Al Saud managed to recapture Riyadh and return to it with his family. This historic event is a major turning point in the history of the region because it started a modern Saudi state that managed to unify most of the parts of the Arabian Peninsula ,in addition to the civilizational achievements in the various fields.

In his era ,King abdulaziz had a lot of titles including Imam:

- Amir Najd and leader of its tribes 1319 H / 1902 G
- Sultan Najd 1339 AH / 1921 AD
- Sultan Najd and its regions 1340 AH / 1922 AD
- King of Hejaz and Sultan Najd and its regions 1345 AH / 1926 AD
- King of Hejaz and King of Najd and its regions 1345 AH / 1927 AD
- King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 1351 AH / 1932 AD

On the 17th of Jumada I 1351 AH / September the 19th 1932 AD, a royal decree was issued announcing the unification of the country under the name (The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), starting from Thursday, the 21st of Jumada I 1351 AH / September the 23rd 1932 AD (the first day of Libra).

With this announcement, King Abdulaziz launched his efforts to unify the country and establish a solid state based on the application of the provisions of Quran and the Sunnah. After that, the first of Libra, corresponding to September the 23rd, was announced to become the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom has become a great nation in its mission, achievements, and its regional and international status.

During the reign of King Abdulaziz ,The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gained a special international status. It joined many international organizations and conventions, as a result of its major location and Steadiness ,It was also one of the first countries that signed the Charter of the United Nations in 1364 AH (1945 AD).

It also contributed to the establishment of many international organizations aimed at security , stability, and justice, such as the Arab League in 1364 AH (1945 AD).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after King AbdulAziz

After the death of King AbdulAziz - may he rest in peace - in the second of Rabia AlAwal 1373 AH corresponding the 9th of November 1953 AD, his sons continued his methods in the construction journey of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in accordance to the high principles the Kingdom is based on.

King Saud Bin AbdulAziz 1373 - 1384 AH (1953 - 1964 AD)

Saudis pledged allegiance to King Saud in 1373 AH (1953 AD) after the death of his father King Abdulaziz. During King Saud's period the Kingdom had witnessed the accomplishment of constructions and the development journey in all sectors. King Saud Bin AbdulAziz was keen on making domestic visits to all the regions in order to inspect the country, in addition to the foreign visits to enhance the cooperation with the neighboring and friendly countries. In accordance to King AbdulAziz method, King Saud Bin AbdulAziz continued to focus on Islamic and Arabic issues.

King Faisal Bin AbdulAziz 1384 - 1395 AH (1964 - 1975 AD)

Saudis pledged allegiance to King Faisal in 1384 AH (1964 AD) after his brother king Saud had resigned, and continued the construction journey that his father King AbdulAziz and his brother King saud had initiated.

The Kingdom had witnessed many developments in various sectors in King Faisal's period as The Kingdom became the chairman of international conventions and Islamic and Arabic summits due to its international status and semantic message. King Faisal Bin AbdulAziz was able to face the challenges and the misleading ideologies, and directed the Islamic and Arabic efforts guided by Saudi Arabia which became a primary base in international politics.

King Khaled Bin AbdulAziz 1395 - 1402 AH (1975 - 1982 AD)

Saudis pledged allegiance to king Khaled Bin AbdulAziz in 1395 AH (1975 AD) after the martyrdom of King Faisal, pursuing the development and construction journey of the Kingdom. During King Khaled's years, the Kingdom had accomplished major improvements in various areas of development through the use of the urban culture while maintaining the Saudi principles and the Islamic distinguished system. The Kingdom held its high position in Arabic and Islamic politics; due to Saudi Arabia firm leadership and principles, and the embracing of the Muslims beloved two Holy mosques.

King Fahad Bin AbdulAziz (The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques) 1402 - 1426 AH (1982 - 2005 AD)

In 1402 AH (1982 AD) The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahad Bin AbdulAziz was ascent to the throne, following his father's method in building the country and society to reach the highest level of civilization. King Fahad's period had witnessed great civil achievements that reflected the advanced growth of the Kingdom, and the prosperity of the Saudi life while continuing to apply the Islamic constitution, and also had an interest in the security and education fields. Moreover, The Kingdom has pursued its development in the industrial field as a result to King Fahad's policies and attention towards the overall development and building the industrial infrastructure in the Kingdom. In King Fahad's period, the largest historic expansion of the two holy mosques took place, along with the Saudi economy and civilianization raising to the highest level. The Saudi foreign policy during King Fahad's period was known for effectiveness and positiveness, and making the right solutions in major Islamic and Arabic matters.

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz (The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques) 1426 AH / 2005 AD

On Wednesday 28 of Jumada II 1426 AH (03/08/2005 AD), Saudis pledged allegiance to King Abdullah Bin AbdulAziz as the king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz supported Islamic solidarity. He has strengthened brotherly ties between Arab countries, and has had an active role in peace making efforts between Arabs. In addition, he has had an active role in global economy, United Nations, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the Non-Aligned Movement. He is known for his generosity in humanitarian and local charitable deeds. He provided a great support to science and scientists, the development of education, and the establishment of financial, scientific and technical institutions. He also has visited many Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries in Asia, Europe, the United States and Africa. He attended many Arab and Islamic summits, and was keen to achieve peace in the Arab region.

His era witnessed many great accomplishments in the field of higher education, public education, justice and health. Not to mention the expansion of the Prophet's Mosque and the expansion of the Grand Mosque and Al-Mataf.

King Salman Bin Abdulaziz

The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques, HRH King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud received the pledge of allegiance and acceded to the throne of Saudi Arabia on Rabi Thani 3, 1436 H, which corresponds to January 23rd, 2015 on the Gregorian Calendar.

On Nov 5th, 2011, HRH Prince Salman was appointed Minister of Defense. The following June, he was appointed Crown Prince and Vice Premier. He remained in this position for over two years. Prior to holding both positions, King Salman served as governor of Riyadh for more than fifty years.

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A Chronology: The House of Saud

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/saud/cron/>

Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, founder of "Wahhabism," an austere form of Islam, arrives in the central Arabian state of Najd in 1744 preaching a return to "pure" Islam. He seeks protection from the local emir, Muhammad ibn Saud, head of the Al Saud tribal family, and they cut a deal. The Al Saud will endorse al-Wahhab's austere form of Islam and in return, the Al Saud will get political legitimacy and regular tithes from al-Wahhab's followers. The religious-political alliance that al-Wahhab and Saud forge endures to this day in Saudi Arabia.

By the 19th century, the Al Saud has spread its influence across the Arabian Peninsula, stretching from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf and including the Two Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina. But in 1818, forces of the Ottoman Empire sack the capital, Riyadh, and execute many of the religious and political leaders. Over the next eighty years the Al Saud attempt to reestablish their rule on the Arabian Peninsula without success.

Explore more about Wahhabism, in [this section](#) of FRONTLINE's 2001 report, "Saudi Time Bomb?".

1902

Abd al-Aziz and the Ikhwan



The Ikhwan

In 1902, a direct descendent of Muhammad ibn Saud, twenty-year-old Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud, rides out of the desert with 60 of his brothers and cousins to restore the rule of Al Saud. He captures Riyadh, the ancient capital of the Saudi kingdom, but to conquer all of the Arabian Peninsula, he seeks the help of nomadic Bedouins, the Ikhwan, or Muslim brothers. Renowned warriors, the Ikhwan are also fervent Wahhabi Islamic puritans who want to spread their form of

Islam throughout the Middle East.

1924-25

Abd al-Aziz Captures Mecca and Medina, Crushes the Ikhwan

With the Ikhwan by his side, Abd al-Aziz captures province after province of the vast desert. He captures Mecca in 1924 and Medina in 1925, becoming the ruler of the Two Holy Cities of Islam. But the Ikhwan want to spread Wahhabism beyond Arabia and when Abd al-Aziz tries to restrain them, they rebel. To survive, Abd al-Aziz realizes he has to destroy the Ikhwan. But how can he, a defender of Islam, justify going to war against his Muslim warriors?

Abd al-Aziz seeks the approval of the ulama, the religious authorities, regarded as the moral guardians of the realm. With the ulama's endorsement, he crushes the Ikhwan.

1932

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud declares himself king and gives his name to the country: Saudi Arabia. To keep his new kingdom united, he marries a daughter from every tribe as well as from the influential clerical families -- more than twenty wives, although never more than four at one time, in accordance with the Quran.

These unions produce 45 legitimate sons and an unknown number of daughters (daughters are not counted). Abd al-Aziz then begins consolidating power away from the brothers and cousins who helped him conquer the peninsula in favor of his own sons. Every Saudi king since has been a son of Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud.

Explore the modern Al Saud dynasty's ["Family Tree."](#)

1933

Oil!

Saudi Arabia and the U.S. establish diplomatic relations, and in 1933 the first foreign oil prospectors arrive in the kingdom. The Americans pay \$170,000 in gold for land concessions that turn out to contain the biggest oil fields on earth. Ignoring criticism that inviting foreigners into the kingdom is un-Islamic, and citing precedent in the Quran, King Abd al-Aziz invites U.S oil companies to develop Saudi oil resources. The oil companies and the Saudi government set up a joint enterprise that later becomes the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco). Its shareholders include America's four largest oil corporations.

1945

The Oil-for-Security Deal

By 1945, the U.S. urgently needs oil facilities to help supply forces fighting in the Second World War. Meanwhile, security is at the forefront of King Abd al-Aziz's concerns. President Franklin Roosevelt invites the king to meet him aboard the U.S.S. *Quincy*, docked in the Suez Canal. The two leaders cement a secret oil-for-security pact: The king guarantees to give the U.S. secure access to Saudi oil and in exchange the U.S. will provide military assistance and training to Saudi Arabia and build the Dhahran military base.



FDR and King Abd al-Aziz
aboard the *U.S.S. Quincy*

Also discussed at the meeting is the issue of creating a Jewish homeland in Palestine. King Abd al-Aziz acknowledges the plight of the Jews, but argues taking part of Palestine is unfair to the Palestinians. In a letter to the king that Roosevelt sends after their meeting, the president writes: "I will take no action which might prove hostile to the Arab people." But Roosevelt dies shortly after sending this letter and Vice President Harry Truman becomes president.

1947

U.S. Recognizes the State of Israel

Prince Faisal, the King's second son, arrives in New York for the UN vote on the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. The Saudis are dead set against it. Prince Faisal is promised by Gen. George Marshall, one of President Truman's top aides, that the U.S. will vote against the proposal. When Truman decides to support Palestine's partition, Prince Faisal takes this as a personal affront.

In 1948, King Abd al-Aziz sends Saudi forces to join an unsuccessful effort to destroy the nascent Jewish state. Saudi Arabia has since never officially recognized Israel, and is technically still at war with it.

1953

Prince Saud Becomes King

Before his death in 1953, King Abd al-Aziz designates his eldest son, Prince Saud, the next king and appoints his second son, Prince Faisal, minister of foreign affairs. But Prince Saud will prove an ineffective ruler. His reign will be marked by inattention to governance and misuse of money.

1957

Reinforcing the U.S.-Saudi Alliance

The Middle East balance of power shifts after Gamal Abdel Nasser's overthrow of Egypt's king in 1952. Nasser proclaims himself a pan-Arabist -- a secular, socialist -- and allies himself with the Soviet Union against the West. Nasser also wants Saudi oil under his control, saying it belongs to all Arab people.



King Saud visits the U.S.

The U.S. moves to shore up support for Saud. President Eisenhower invites him for a state visit in Feb. 1957. Eisenhower wants to renew the lease on the Dhahran airbase, a useful strategic asset in the Cold War. Saud wants the money that the U.S. will pay to extend the lease. And he privately promises to suspend all aid to Egypt. To this day, the agreement that Faisal and Eisenhower sign constitutes the basis of U.S.-Saudi military cooperation.

But Saud soon spends the revenues from the Dhahran lease on luxury trips to Europe and falls out of favor with his own family.

1958-59

The "Free Prince" Movement

In the late 50s, one of King Abd al-Aziz's younger sons, Prince Talal, begins a movement for political reform in the kingdom. In 1958, he drafts a new Saudi constitution to establish a national consultative council, a first step toward

establishing a constitutional monarchy. But his proposal is rejected by King Saud and in 1961 he is forced from his position as transportation minister.

From exile in Egypt and Lebanon, Prince Talal announces the establishment of a royal opposition group comprised of some of his full brothers and other well-educated Saudis. It is nicknamed the "Free Princes." They continue to lobby for political reform, but without success.

1964

King Saud Deposed

By the early 60s, King Saud is losing support everywhere and has brought the country to the brink of economic collapse. The senior Al Saud brothers realize something has to be done and arrive at a consensus to replace Saud with a more capable leader. They go to the ulama, the religious authorities, and get a fatwa sanctioning Saud's abdication in favor of his half-brother Faisal. King Saud and his entourage quietly leave the country, and the ailing monarch spends his last years exiled in Athens, Greece, where he dies in 1969.

1964-75

Faisal's Modernization

King Faisal begins a program of bringing the kingdom up to date, stressing economic development and educational improvements. During his reign oil revenues increase by more than 1,600 percent, enabling Faisal to build a communications and transportation infrastructure and set up a generous system of welfare benefits for all citizens. Even today, Saudi citizens do not pay taxes.

But almost every aspect of modernization brings the king into conflict with the religious establishment. For the ulama, innovation threatens Islam. To appease the conservatives, King Faisal allows Saudi Arabia to become a sanctuary for extremist Muslims from Egypt and Syria where the governments are cracking down on fundamentalist scholars and professionals. Faisal invites them to teach Saudi Arabia's youth. His decision will have far-reaching consequences; many of today's Saudi radicals studied under Egyptian and Syrian fundamentalists.



An early Arabic television station

Partly due to his standing as a pious Muslim, Faisal is able to introduce cautious social reforms such as female education. In 1965, he approves the first television broadcast inside the kingdom -- a recitation of the Quran. Nonetheless, religious conservatives stage a large protest. When a nephew of the king is killed at the protest in clashes with the police, the king does nothing to punish the policemen. This decision will later have disastrous consequences.

1967

The Arab-Israeli War

In the spring of 1967 war is brewing. President Nasser of Egypt moves troops to Israel's border and orders the UN out. Uniting against Israel, Faisal reconciles with Nasser. Fearing an attack is imminent, Israel launches a massive pre-emptive war. In just six days the bulk of Arab armies are destroyed and Arab leaders are humiliated. At Aramco's compounds, hundreds of Saudis riot against the United States. The Arab league pressures King Faisal to use Saudi oil as a weapon against the West.

1973

The Arab Oil Embargo



Long lines and oil shortages

In Oct. 1973, another Arab-Israeli war breaks out. Despite growing tensions, the Arab attack on Israel comes as a surprise. In the first day, Egyptian and Syrian armies gain considerable ground.

In the midst of the war, the U.S. airlifts supplies to Israel. The Arab League pressures Faisal for an oil boycott and Faisal acts, ordering Aramco to stop pumping. With Saudi oil kept off the market, world oil

prices quadruple. President Nixon sends Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on an urgent mission to meet with Faisal. The Pentagon begins considering military options. Kissinger says oil is a national security priority, and if necessary, the U.S. will intervene militarily.

With the oil embargo having a major impact on the war in Vietnam, a secret solution is devised: King Faisal agrees to arrange for Saudi oil to be covertly supplied to the U.S. Navy. The oil embargo officially ends in 1974.

1975

Faisal Assassinated

On the morning of March 25, King Faisal's past catches up with him. At a meeting with Kuwait's petroleum minister, one of the king's nephews, Faisal ibn Musaid, slips into the room. His brother had been killed by police at the 1965 protest against the introduction of television. Ibn Musaid shoots and kills the king. The assassination comes as a violent shock, especially because the killer is a member of the royal family.

As his father had decreed, King Faisal is succeeded by his half-brother Prince Khalid, who becomes the fourth king of Saudi Arabia.

1975-1979

The Oil Boom Years

During the reign of King Khalid, hundreds of billions in oil revenue pours into Saudi Arabia. The tiny population, estimated at four million and with only half a million literate males, finds it hard to absorb such wealth. The government begins a frenzied pace of buying and building. Foreign contractors flood in. Among those accumulating massive riches during these years are the bin Ladens, principal builders for the Al Saud royal family.

The boom also leads to widespread official corruption. Deals are riddled with influence peddling, bribes and oversize commissions. The Saudi royals, with their huge allowances, become notorious big spenders in Europe's casinos. Saudi leaders lose the credibility and respect of the country's religious conservatives.

1979

Armed Zealots Seize the Great Mosque at Mecca

One of Saudi Arabia's most shocking events occurs the morning of November 20, 1979. Several hundred Saudi fundamentalists take over al-Haram, the Great Mosque at Mecca and the holiest site in Islam. The leader of the insurgents is Juhayman al-Utaybi, a direct descendant of the Ikhwan, the Wahhabi warriors who helped the Al Saud family take power in the early 1920s.



The Great Mosque at Mecca

The radicals call for a return to pure Islam, and a reversal of modernization. Juhayman also accuses the royal family of corruption and says they have lost their legitimacy because of their dealings with the West.

The royal family again turns to the ulama, the religious leaders of Saudi Arabia, and the clerics issue a fatwa based on verses from the Quran that allows the government to use all necessary force to retake the Great Mosque. The standoff lasts for several weeks before the Saudi military can remove the insurgents. More than 200 troops and dissidents are killed in the attacks and, to set an example, over sixty of the zealots are publicly beheaded in their hometowns.

1979

The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, the Rise of Jihadis

Shaken by the seizure of the Great Mosque by radical fundamentalists, the royal family moves to increase its religious standing and starts implementing a more Islamist agenda. They begin pumping millions into religious education under the ulama. Saudi charities raise even more. New theological schools and universities are built to produce large numbers of clerics who teach Wahhabism as the only true form of Islam and preach jihad against infidels is the obligation of every true believer.

This same year, the Wahhabis find a rallying cause like no other: The Soviet Union, the godless Communist power, invades the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia and the U.S. make a secret deal to contribute equal amounts to finance the Afghan war against the Soviets.

Thousands of young Saudis are sent to fight alongside the mujahideen in Afghanistan. For the next decade, some 45,000 young Saudi volunteers will trek to Afghanistan where they acquire military skills and come to believe that dedicated Islamic fighters can defeat a superpower. One of their leaders is Osama bin Laden.

Late-70s and early-80s

Military and Security Build-Up

In the wake of Ayatollah Khomeini's bitterly anti-American Shi'a fundamentalist revolution in Iran and the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia strengthen their security relationship. Rising oil revenues allow the Saudis to increase military expenditures at all levels.

1982

Fahd's Reign and the Iran-Iraq War

King Kahlid dies after a short illness and is succeeded by his half-brother Crown Prince Fahd. The new king will face economic constraints as oil prices decline in the late 80s.



Saddam Hussein and King Fahd

Just as Fahd takes power, war breaks out between his two powerful neighbors, Iran and Iraq. Fahd befriends Saddam Hussein, a fellow Sunni, and gives him money and weapons to battle the Shi'a in Iran. But two years after the war ends, Saddam will invade neighboring Kuwait, with his eye on Saudi oil.

1990-91

The Gulf War

On August 2, 1990, Iraq invades Kuwait, and moves its troops toward the border of Saudi Arabia. Osama bin Laden visits members of the royal family and offers his Afghan-trained mujahideen to help fight Iraq, but they don't take his offer seriously.

King Fahd turns to his U.S. allies for help. But can he, the Defender of the Two Mosques of Mecca and Medina, invite hundreds of thousands of non-Muslim

"infidel" troops into the kingdom? Once again, the royal family turns to the ulama for a ruling or fatwa. With their approval, over half a million U.S. troops arrive in Saudi Arabia and neighboring countries.

1991

Saudi Women Demonstrate for the Right to Drive

With U.S. women soldiers in many parts of the kingdom because of the Gulf War, Saudi women decide to challenge restrictions on their rights, including the right to drive. In November, forty-seven Saudi women meet at the parking lot of a Safeway and drive their cars through the streets of Riyadh. The women are arrested by the religious police, but released the same night under orders of Prince Salman, the governor of Riyadh.



Saudi women driving during the protest

The ulama calls their driving a depravity and issues the names and numbers of all 47 women, urging clerics to punish the women as they see fit. The Al Saud royal family publicly reasserts the ban on women drivers.

1992

Religious Leaders Criticize King Fahd

A group of 107 Wahhabi religious figures sends a 46-page "Memorandum of Advice" to King Fahd criticizing the government for corruption and human rights abuses and for allowing U.S. troops on Saudi soil. The document calls on the government to more strictly follow shari'a, or Islamic law, and end relations with Western governments. King Fahd dismisses seven of the 17 members of the ulama for refusing to denounce the memorandum.

1992

Fahd Introduces the "Basic Law of Government"

Amid calls for democratic reform, King Fahd introduces the "Basic Law of Government," essentially the country's first written constitution. The first of the laws specifies that Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab Islamic state with a monarchy headed by the House of Saud. The Al Saud's control of government remains tight, but the new laws make some concessions to reformers. For example, a Consultative Council of 60 members appointed by the king is created to interpret laws and make recommendations on matters of state. The laws also establish the first municipal governments in the country.

1994

Anti-Monarchy Protests

Following the government's arrest of two Wahhabi clerics for anti-government preaching, several thousand protestors stage demonstrations in the town of

Buraida. The clerics accuse the monarchy of corruption and betraying Islam by allowing U.S. troops on the Arabian Peninsula. The government admits to arresting over a hundred protestors; opposition groups claim thousands were seized.

The incident ends up forcing the government to cede more control to the Wahhabi clerics, but only if the clerics promise to support the government. The two Wahhabi clerics are quietly released from prison in 1999.

1995 Americans Targeted

Four years after the Gulf War, U.S. troops are still in the kingdom. Osama bin Laden seizes on the issue and his followers go on the offensive. On the morning of November 13, 1995 a massive bomb shakes the U.S.-operated Saudi National Guard training center in Riyadh. Five American military contractors and one U.S. soldier are killed. Those arrested say they are inspired by bin Laden.

1995-96 King Fahd Incapacitated

Following a series of strokes in 1995 and 1996, King Fahd is no longer able to run the government and Crown Prince Abdullah, Fahd's half brother, becomes the kingdom's de facto ruler.

June 1996 Khobar Towers Bombing

On the morning of June 25, 1996 a large truck bomb explodes at the U.S. military residence in Dhahran called Khobar Towers, killing 19 U.S. servicemen. U.S. law enforcement efforts to investigate the bombing are met with resistance by Saudi officials. Five years later, a federal grand jury will indict 13 Saudis and one Lebanese man for the attack.

1996 Bin Laden Declares War on America

In his 1996 [declaration of war](#) against the Americans occupying the lands of the Two Holy Places, Osama bin Laden calls on Muslims everywhere to fight the Jews and crusaders. He also accuses the Saudi royal family of pocketing the national wealth.

Late 1990s The Rise of Arab Media

Arab satellite television begins broadcasting throughout the region, beyond the control of the Saudi monarchy. For the first time, Saudi citizens see for themselves reports of their country's shortcomings: the lack of civil rights, political freedoms, royal corruption. Disturbing images of the Arab-Israeli conflict become part of Saudis' daily viewing.

Throughout the 90s, U.S. efforts to forge a lasting peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are unsuccessful. When the Saudis sense that the new U.S. president, George W. Bush, might abandon the peace process, they decide to take a more active role.

August 2001 Crown Prince Abdullah's Letter

Frustrated by what he sees as a continuing pro-Israeli bias by the Bush administration and its predecessors, Crown Prince Abdullah sends an angry letter to President Bush on August 29, stating that if the U.S. does not behave in a more equitable manner toward the Palestinians, the Saudis will have to reconsider their long-standing alliance with the U.S. But before any measurable action can be taken on his complaint, the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 occur.

September 11, 2001 The Saudi Response

At the official level, the Saudi government is appalled by the terrorist attacks in the U.S. and publishes a statement calling them "regrettable" and "inhuman." Although it is known almost immediately that 15 of the 19 hijackers in the Al Qaeda plot are Saudi citizens, months pass before the Saudi government will admit it.

America's subsequent war on terror in Afghanistan against Al Qaeda deeply divides Saudis. But Saudi leaders quietly allow the U.S. military to use Saudi air bases for command and control operations.

Saudi militants captured in Afghanistan will make up the biggest segment of the population shipped to the prison camps in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

April 2003 U.S. Forces Leave the Kingdom

Just days after Baghdad falls to U.S. forces in Iraq, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld arrives in Riyadh to announce that U.S. troops will pull out of Saudi air bases. For more than ten years, the American presence in the Land of the Two Holy Mosques has been a rallying cry for Al Qaeda.

May 2003 The Wake-Up Call



Destruction from the attacks in Riyadh

The fact that U.S. troops are withdrawing from the kingdom makes no difference to Al Qaeda. On May 12, 2003 Al Qaeda militants attack three compounds in Riyadh that house hundreds of foreign workers. Thirty-five people are killed, including nine Americans. Over one hundred are wounded. Shocked, Saudi society and the royal family begin to look inward and to question how their own citizens could have been behind the attacks.

2004

Pressure for Reform

In early 2004, a group of prominent Saudi citizens, including [attorney Bassim Alim](#), petition the government for constitutional reforms.

Prince Nayef, the minister of the interior, meets with them and insists that the petitions stop. Shortly after, many of the petitioners are arrested.

November
2004

The Fatwa of the 26

At Friday prayers on November 5, 2004, twenty-six prominent Saudi clerics, including [Sheikh Nasser al-Omar](#), sign a [fatwa](#) saying that Iraqis should rise up and oppose the Americans in Iraq. Many interpret the fatwa as encouraging all Muslims to go fight the Americans.

In Dec. 2004, a young Saudi medical student travels to Mosul, Iraq and detonates a bomb that kills 22 U.S. soldiers. To date, an unknown number of Saudis have traveled to Iraq to join the insurgency.

2003-2005

Islamist Violence Increases; Westerners Withdraw

From May 2003 to December 2004, some 100 people are killed in attacks by Al Qaeda in Saudi Arabia. Westerners are a prime target. In the summer of 2004, a BBC cameraman is gunned down while filming in a Riyadh street. Two days later, a U.S. defense contractor is shot to death in his garage. A week later, another U.S. defense worker is killed outside his home in Riyadh, and U.S. engineer Paul Johnson is abducted by terrorists and is seen being beheaded in a video that is put on the Internet.

In December 2004 an assault on the U.S. consulate in Jeddah leaves five foreign staff dead. Two weeks later, the Saudi Ministry of the Interior is car bombed. As

of February 2005, thousands of Americans have pulled out of the kingdom and British Airways has suspended flights to the country.

On Aug. 1, 2005, King Fahd dies at the age of 82, and his half-brother Abdullah is officially named monarch. Today, King Abdullah and the Saudi royal family face the most severe challenge in its one hundred-year history and straining its oil-for-security alliance with the U.S. Ultimately, the Saudis believe an oil dependent America cannot afford Saudi Arabia's demise. The House of Saud believes it will survive.

(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)



Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University

<https://imamu.edu.sa/en/about/Pages/default.aspx>

About the University

Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University is one of the major state comprehensive academic institutions in Riyadh.

It started offering Islamic and humanities programs, before expanding to areas of sciences, engineering and medicine, to keep pace with the requirements and needs of the Saudi labor market, and to participate in supporting sustainable development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It offers, through its colleges and institutes, several programs in various fields and sciences across a wide range of educational levels: diplomas, undergraduate and graduate programs, while achieving academic and research excellence.

The University creates an ideal academic environment recruiting distinguished faculty members, nurturing knowledge and creativity in the light of Islamic teachings and values.

It provides a full range of university facilities and integrated student services, to prepare competent graduates who are capable to cope with contemporary challenges while achieving social and economic development.

It has paid attention to academic research and the breadth of research domains, nationally and internationally.

The university publishes a number of peer-reviewed journals, and oversees research centers and a number of academic associations.

Drawing on its cultural and academic heritage in learning, teaching and academic research, it has maintained promoting knowledge exchange and international communication, and contributed to the creation, production and dissemination of knowledge.

Based on its endeavors to meet the standards of institutional quality assurance authorities, Al-Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University has obtained full institutional accreditation (until 2026) from the Education and Training Evaluation Commission represented by the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation.

Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University was founded in the buildings of College of Sharia in 1373 AH/1953 that

developed substantially into a university in 1394 AH /1974 AD. It integrates commitment to the Islamic values and academic excellence to take part in the creation of the information and knowledge society. The academic Institute in Riyadh is the seed of Al-Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University; it was founded in 1370- 1950 AD when the Founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, King Abdulaziz Ibn Abdulrahman Al Saud, may Allah have mercy on him, assigned Mohammad Ibn Ibrahim Al Al-Sheikh, may Allah have mercy on him, to inaugurate the institute. Shortly, more institutes were inaugurated in addition to the College of Al-'Ulum Al-Shar'iyah (Islamic Studies) in 1373 AH/1953 AD., now College of Sharia, which is one of the oldest Shari'a Colleges across the Muslim World. Then, more colleges and higher institutes were founded, hosting 92 departments in an inclusive campus for men and another for women. The latter bears the name of King Abdallah Ibn Abdulaziz Ibn Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, may Allah have mercy on him.

The University seeks to meet the educational and developmental needs of the Saudi society by qualifying human resources academically, culturally and intellectually to serve the community, to create an educational and cultural environment that meets the needs of the academic institution and to advance the programs of development of its human resources. The University also contributes in advancing human development through offering a wide range of study programs. Despite the high profile of the university's outputs in Islamic studies and linguistic since inception, it established colleges and institutes to provide specialized programs in sociology, linguistics, sciences, computer, management, economics, engineering and medicine. The university has an interest in teaching Arabic to non-

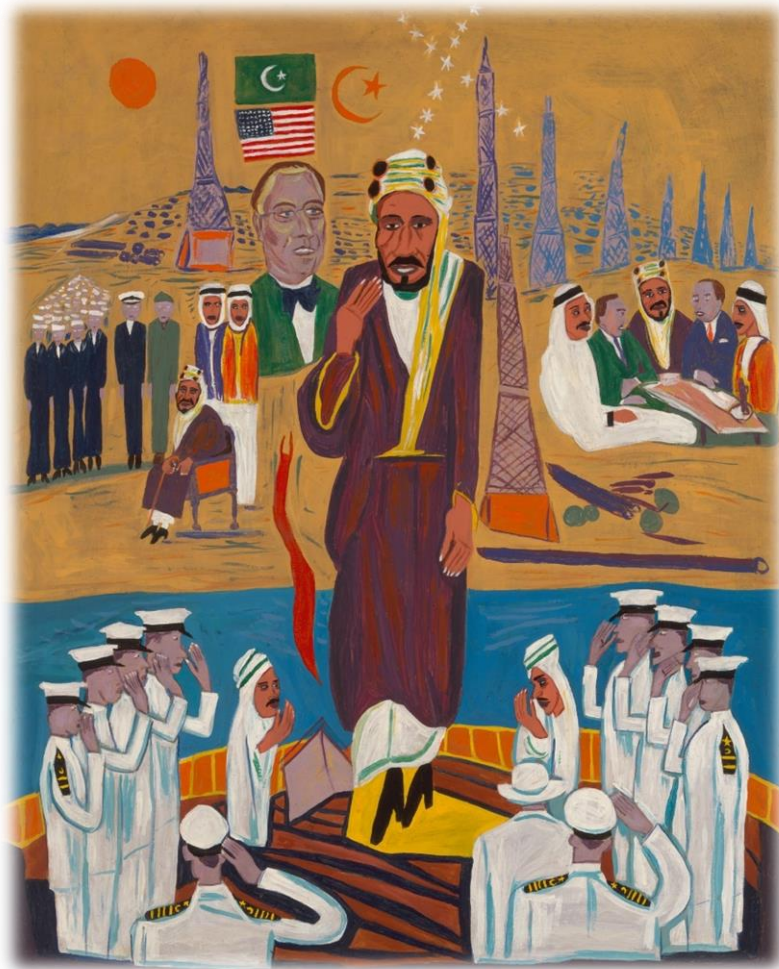
native speakers and founded an institute of Arabic as a foreign language in Riyadh. The university hosts 14 colleges, 3 higher institutes, 5 academic institutes abroad, in addition to 70 pre-university academic institutes across the Kingdom. In 1442/2020, a decision was made to merge the pre-university academic institutes to the Ministry of Education, so that the university would be more focused on tertiary education.



@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

King Ibn Saud

<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/king-ibn-saud-12568>



Artwork Description

In this painting Johnson refers to a secret meeting in 1945 between King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt onboard the battleship USS Quincy in the Suez Canal. Johnson shows a larger-than-life Ibn Saud receiving salutes from senior naval officers and the homage of his countrymen. A green flag in the upper center locates the meeting in Egypt; the derricks dotting the arid landscape in the background refer to the recent discovery of petroleum on the Arabian Peninsula. Though

Six decades ago, the US and Saudi Arabia had an uneasy relationship based on oil and regional security, but a secret trip by President Truman's personal physician to treat the Saudi monarch drew them closer together.

In February 1950, the US ambassador in Saudi Arabia sent an unlikely and unusual request to the State Department.

"HM has request our assistance in obtaining the immediate services of an outstanding specialist, who with an assistant could go to Saudi Arabia to examine and treat him for chronic osteoarthritis from which he is becoming increasingly uncomfortable and enfeebled."

"HM" was the King of Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz bin Abd al-Rahman al-Saud, commonly known in the West as Ibn Saud.



IMAGE SOURCE,CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Image caption,

The mission was put up in Riyadh at the newly completed guest palace for the King of Afghanistan

The request came at a complicated time for US-Saudi relations. The US was leasing the Dhahran airfield, but many Saudis, including the more conservative religious authorities were increasingly against any American military presence.

Ibn Saud himself was still wary of America's recognition of Israel. And there were ongoing negotiations over how the profits from Aramco, a oil firm jointly owned by Saudi Arabia and American companies, should be split.

King Ibn Saud was powerful and savvy leader who had unified the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but he was ageing, and the pain and swelling in his legs from arthritis had limited him largely to a wheelchair. When the Americans did see him, one said when he walked, those nearby could hear his bones grinding.

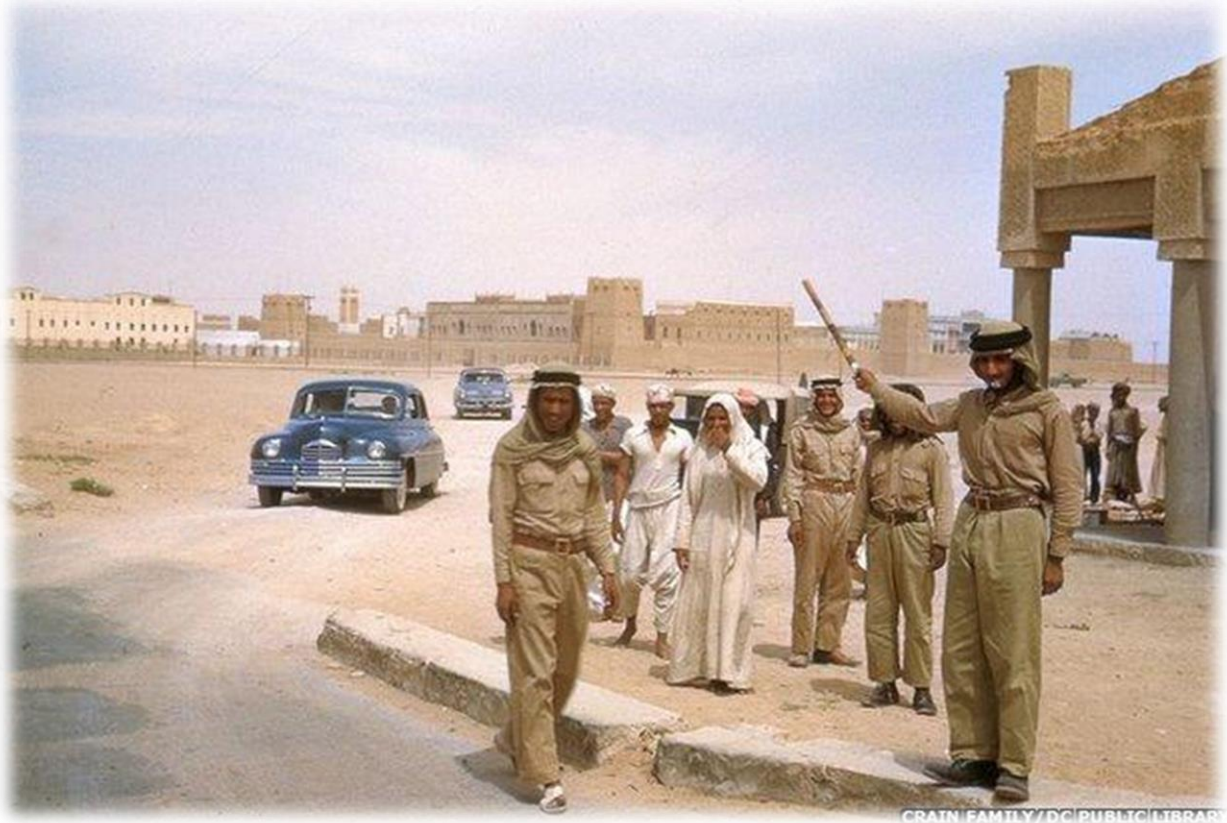


IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

A State Department memo by Saudi expert Fred Awalt noted the king's own physicians had done well by Ibn Saud and "could have done better had the latter accepted their recommendations and treatment".

An earlier successful trip by an Air Force doctor to treat Crown Prince Saud for an eye issue may have convinced the monarch to look elsewhere for relief.

The defence department sent two specialists and former military men, as well as equipment technicians. But Truman added his personal physician, Brigadier General Wallace H Graham, to the trip.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson told the US embassy in Jeddah the president wanted Gen Graham to "attend his great and good friend" and head up the defence medical team in a then-secret telegram, now on file at the US National Archives.

Childs replied that he felt Ibn Saud would be "greatly touched" by President Truman's offer and said it would go far "in convincing him of our genuinely friendly sentiments".

The mission took off from Washington on 15 April 1950. It was small and secret.

As the preparations were being finalised, the Saudi government sent an emergency telegram to their ambassador in Washington to ask the Truman "not to permit any news either press or radio concerning medical team coming here".

Authority NND 832922

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

Department of State

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFICATION

PRIORITY

2 P.M.
CONTROL
895
APR 5 1950
FOR DCIT USE ONLY

AMEMBASSY,
JIDDA
124 WLD
President ~~would~~ like send his personal physician
Brig. Gen. Wallace H. Graham to attend his great and
good friend King Ibn Saud. Gen ~~Gen~~ Graham ~~would~~ head
up proposed DEF medical team. ~~Please~~ Consult SAG to
ascertain if agreeable. Your comment ~~would~~ be appreciated.

Acheson
(PP)

ACHESON

1950 APR 5
ACCEPT

The Saudis feared the suddenness of the trip would fuel rumours Ibn Saud was seriously sick and considering abdicating. He had no interest in stepping down.

But Mr Truman would have had his reasons to keep the special mission quiet as well. Saudi Arabia was an unlikely but important potential ally - because of the connection with Aramco's oil and the government's staunch anti-communist feelings. But such an alliance would not be popular back in the US.



IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Image caption,
US visitors dining in Riyadh**

The two specialists on the defence team were former military members - Dr Gilbert Marquardt and Dr Darrell Crain. Dr Crain was a Washington, DC resident who brought his hobby - photography - along with him to Saudi Arabia.

Dr Crain's granddaughter, Alice Makl, found the photos - **along with many others** - in storage last year.

After a three-day journey, the party arrived in Saudi Arabia and was met by the king, who according to Heyward Hill, a counsellor at the US embassy, "was impatiently and excitedly looking forward to the coming for these physicians".

Despite his credentials as a doctor, Gen Graham's presence on the trip was also a diplomatic sweetener - something he suggested himself in the first meeting with ibn Saud.

"Gen Graham smilingly added that President Truman was 'sending him as a gift to the King'," Hill wrote in a memo sent back to Washington.



IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Image caption,
Gen Wallace Graham (centre-right) was a gifted diplomat himself**



IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Image caption,

Dr Darrell Crain (left) joined Gen Graham on the mission

"His majesty laughed and said it was a very precious gift indeed."

But Gen Graham was an effective diplomat himself, speaking highly of the King's own physicians, calling them "first-class men" and noted his team could mostly be helpful by bringing the "very latest developments in medicines and equipment".

In 1989, Gen Graham told an oral historian that Ibn Saud's pain was severe.

"He had free loose bones in the knee joints and he had loose, hard, cartilage and broken-off pieces of bone in there," he said. He pushed for Ibn Saud to come to the US for surgery, but the king refused.



IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Image caption,

Crown Prince Saud bin Abdulaziz (later King Saud) in 1950

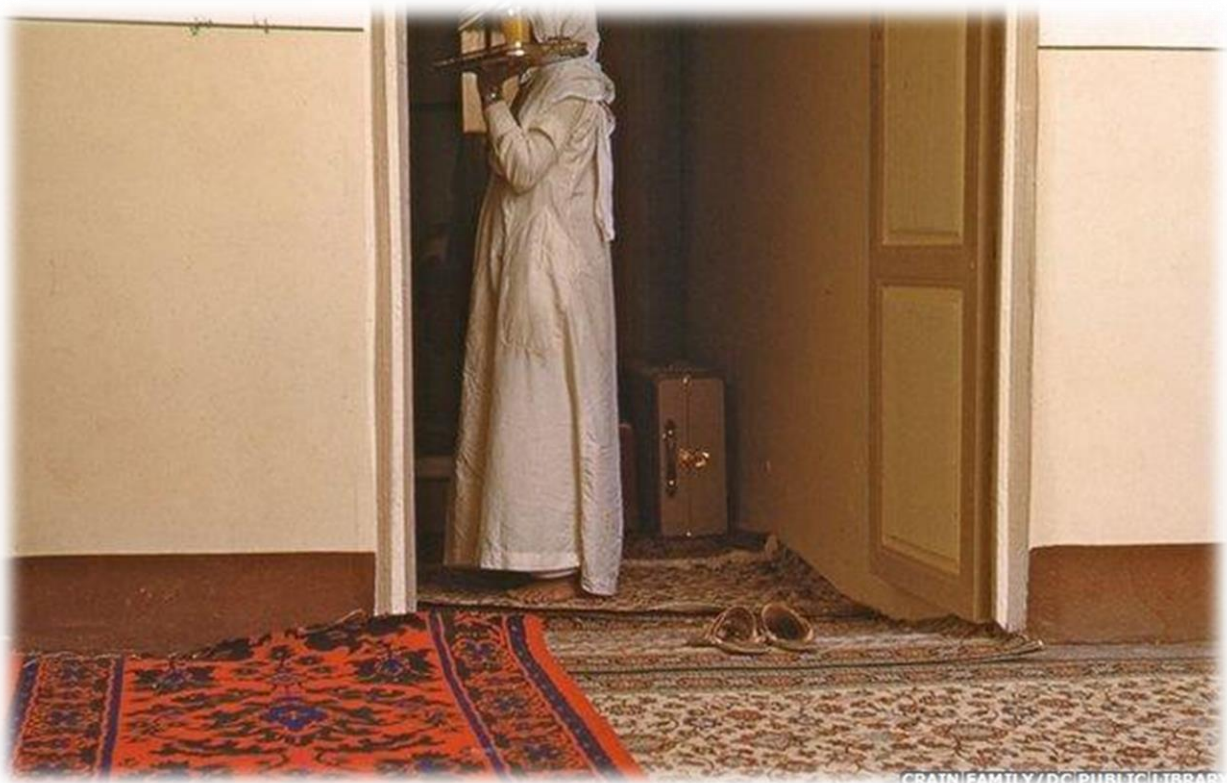


IMAGE SOURCE,CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Image caption,

A servant in the residential palace

Dr Crain's own log shows almost a dozen treatments over several days.

Alice Makl says the experience humanised a powerful king for her grandfather. Dr Crain had spent a career trying to alleviate people's pain, and Ibn Saud was no different.



IMAGE SOURCE,CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Image caption,

Ibn Saud's arthritis had limited his travel and responsibilities

"Here's a man who was very proud and had a successful history," she said, but he was also "a guy getting old who was in a lot of pain".

The journey also provided information to the State Department about life for everyday Saudis.

"It was noted with considerable interest that many of the old restrictions on music, games, toys and other forms of non-religious pastimes have been lifted in Saudi Arabia," Awalt wrote in his memo, crediting Crown Prince Saud for most of this change.

During their visit, the crown prince held a baseball game - the visiting physicians versus Americans working for Bechtel in the country - as well as a football match against the local Saudi team.



IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY



IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY



IMAGE SOURCE, CRATN FAMILY / DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Saudis won 6-0 at football.

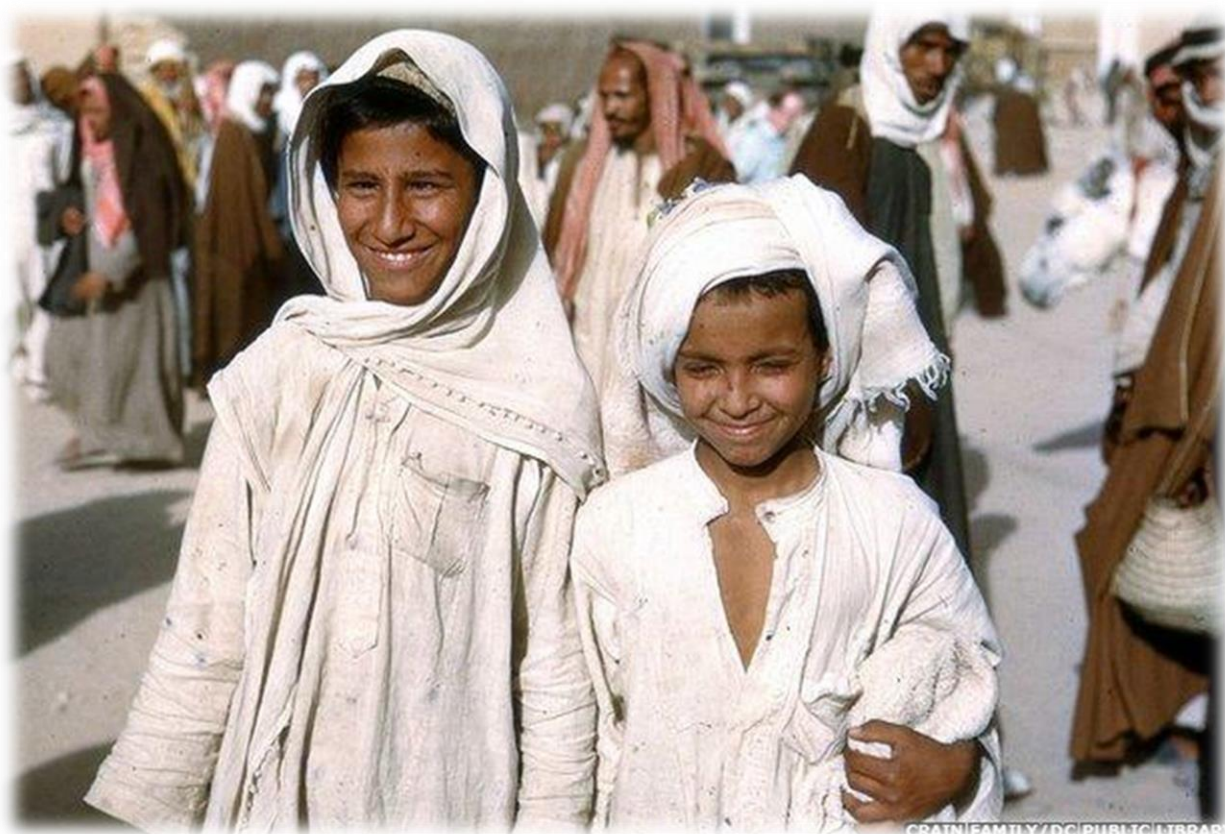
While he refused surgery, the treatment relieved some of Ibn Saud's pain - to the point he began taking back on responsibilities in the kingdom previously assigned to his son.

Awalt reported in a telegram in May the Saudi monarch had gone from constantly using a wheelchair to moving about with "considerable ease and with his knees fully straightened".

And Ambassador Childs reported back to Secretary of State Acheson that the mission had created a "great amount good will".

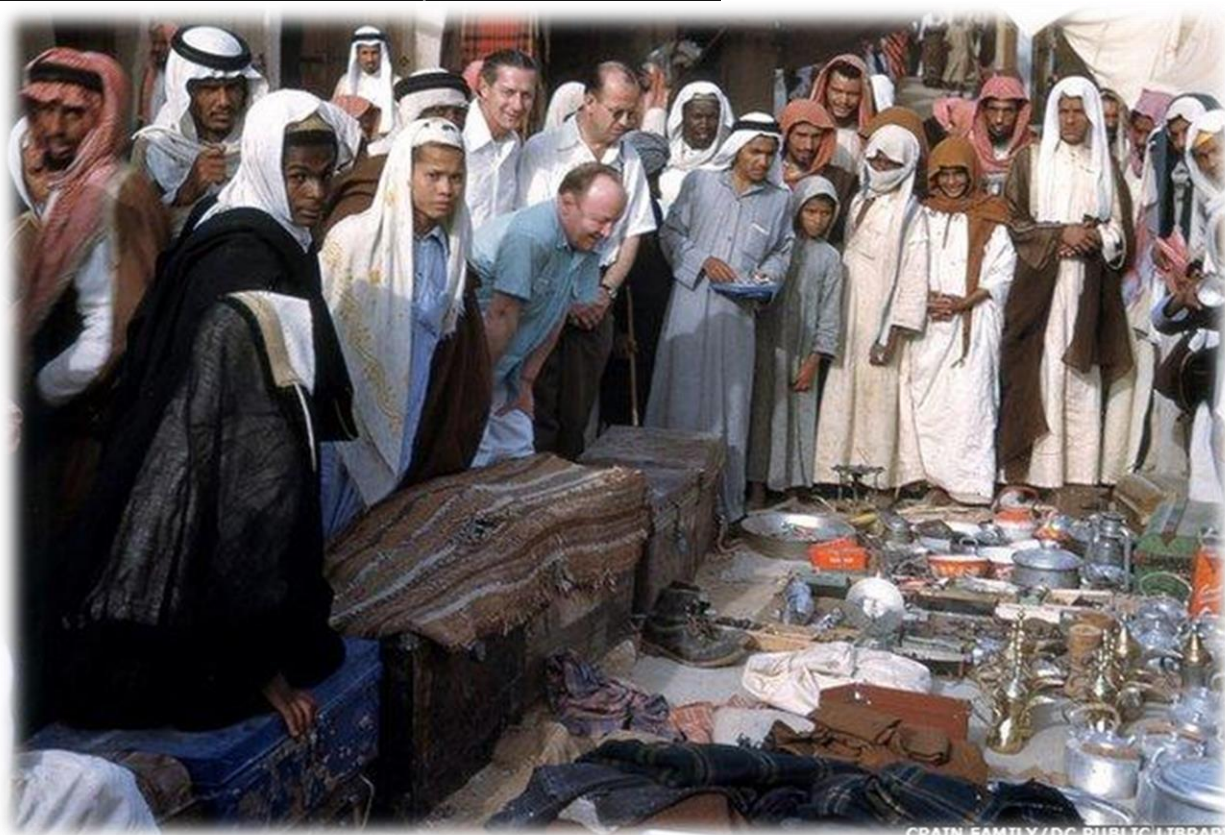
The trip bound US and Saudi closer together. In August the following year, Ibn Saud fell sick again with "severe pains and convulsions in the lower abdomen".

In a memo to the president, Mr Acheson "strongly recommends" Gen Graham and other doctor make the trip to Saudi Arabia immediately.



CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

IMAGE SOURCE,CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY



CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

IMAGE SOURCE,CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sending Gen Graham, Dean Acheson said, was not only "deeply appreciated" by Ibn Saud "but also a diplomatic stroke which paved the way for the recent signature of an extremely favourable United States-Saudi Arabia agreement".

The mutual defence agreement is the basis of military co-operation between the two countries that continues today - despite periods of strain.

President Truman approved the mission.



IMAGE SOURCE, CRAIN FAMILY/DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

As Gen Graham, Mr Awalt and several medical specialists met at the White House in 1951 days before departure, President Truman stopped in and made a telling remark about how important Ibn Saud - and Saudi Arabia - had become to the US.

"The president told the group that they were going on an important mission to a great man," Mr Awalt wrote.

"He is our friend,' he said."

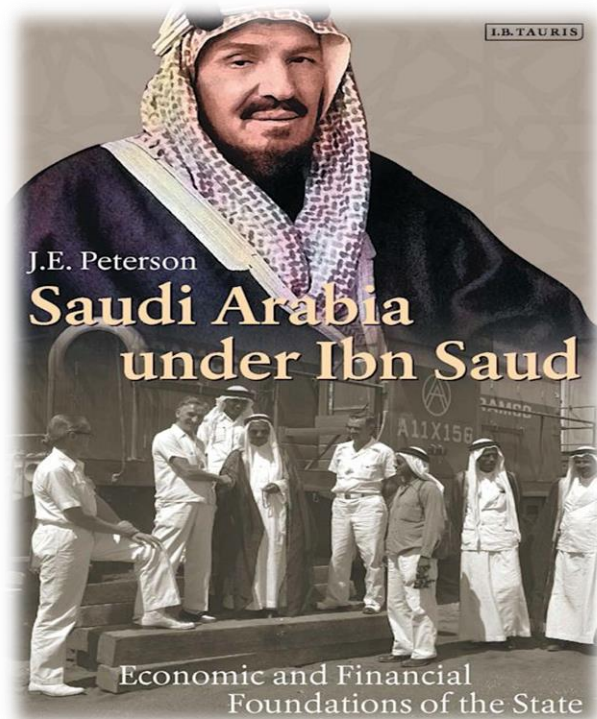
(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)

Saudi Arabia Under Ibn Saud

Economic and Financial Foundations of the State

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/saudi-arabia-under-ibn-saud-9781784539009/>

J.E. Peterson (Author)



Description

At its founding in 1932, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was characterized by tribal warfare, political instability, chronic financial shortages and economic crises. As a desert chieftain, Abd al-Aziz Ibn Saud, the ruler and king until 1953, had the skills, the cunning and the power to control the tribes and bring peace to this realm. But financial and economic matters were not his forte and these he left mostly to a single individual, Abdullah al-Sulayman al-Hamdan. He was entrusted with nearly all of the country's early financial dealings and administrative development. The Ministry of Finance, which he headed from its inception, served as nearly the sole government agency dealing with a wide variety of matters, many of which had only a peripheral connection to finance or the economy. This book examines the role of the Ministry of Finance and its minister, Abdullah al-Sulayman, in holding the country together financially and administratively until the promise of substantial oil income was realized a few years after the end of World War II. It will be essential reading for anyone interested in Gulf History and the Economic History of the Middle East.

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations

Preface

Glossary

Abbreviations

1. Saudi Arabia in the Twentieth Century

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Origins of Government Administration and Financial Requirements

PART I FINANCES AND OIL BEFORE WORLD WAR II

2. The Organization of State Finances

Control of the Treasury in the Early 1920s

Control of Finances in al-Hijaz and the Directorate from 1927

Controller of National Finances and the Financial Authority (al-Wikalah) (1927 – 9)

Establishment of the Ministry of Finance (1932)

Administering Finances During the Great Depression

3. The 1933 Oil Concession and Oil Affairs to World War II

Early Oil Exploration in Arabia

The Role of Charles Crane and Karl Twitchell

The Original 1933 Concession

Further Developments in the ARAMCO Concession

4. Early Administrative Arrangements

Military and Defense

Air and Transport

Foreign Affairs

Hajj Administration

Mining Activities

Electricity and Water Supply

Other Ministry of Finance Responsibilities

PART II THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II

5. British Wartime Assistance and the Emergence of Anglo-American Rivalry

The Inception of British Wartime Subsidies

The Kingdom's Dire Internal Situation in 1942 – 3

Issues with the British Subsidy for 1944

The US Supplants British Influence with the 1945 Subsidy

6. The Beginnings of the US – Saudi Partnership

The Historic Meeting between King ʿAbd al-ʿAziz and President Roosevelt

Wartime Subsidies and Lend – Lease Assistance

Military Provisions and the Dhahran Air Base Agreement

7. Administrative Developments

Endeavors in Agriculture

Continuing Developments in Foreign Affairs and Defense

Banking and Currency

Development Projects

Miscellaneous Activities

PART III POSTWAR PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

8. Oil Emerges as the Financial Engine

Oil Company Relations During the War

TAPline and Other Oil Concerns (1946 – 9)

Financial Relations between the Saudi Arabian Government and ARAMCO (1946 – 9)

Oil Negotiations and Related Matters (1950 – 4)

Other Financial Relations between the Saudi Arabian Government and ARAMCO (1950 – 4)

Onassis and the SATCO Affair of 1954

9. Postwar Stringencies and the Push for Development (1945 – 9)

A New Normalcy After the War

Establishing a Controlled Budgetary Process and Spearheading Socioeconomic Development

10. The Broad Remit of the Postwar Ministry of Finance

The Establishment of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency

Mining Activities and Transport

Saudi Employees in ARAMCO

Agriculture

Other Responsibilities

11. The Emergence of Prosperity (1950 – 4)

Finances and Currency Reform

Development Projects

The Expansion of Government Administration

The Ministry of Finance in the Transition from King ʿAbd al-ʿAziz to King Saʿud

Notes

Bibliography

Index



When Ibn Saud visited India

<https://sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/ibn-saud-visited-india>



ByK Natwar Singh

27 October 2018

Arab chief of protocol said about the King, 'His Majesty is never late. Your ministers have come too early.'

The first Arab I met was Faher Bin Taimur. He was one of the numerous sons of the Sultan of Muscat. During World War II, some Omani members of the royal family were sent to India for education. Faher came to Mayo College, Ajmer, a princely educational establishment where sports got precedence over studies. Faher became my class fellow. He was much older. His English at the time paid little attention to grammar. This was in 1940. We remained lifelong friends. I visited Oman several times as his guest. For a few years he was Deputy Defence Minister. Faher had a short temper. He fell foul of his nephew, the present Sultan of Oman. He died of cancer in his late sixties. For the past few days, he has been in my thoughts on account of the gruesome murder of Jamal Khashoggi with the approval of the highest authorities in Riyadh, in the office of the Consul General of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul. Had Faher been alive, he would have been horrified and outraged.

I now turn to a happier event connected with Saudi Arabia. In the winter of 1955, His Majesty Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud came to India on a state visit. He was 6'6" tall, heavy of build, slow of movement. He brought a large delegation with him, including several young princes. The Saudi ambassador in Delhi at the time was Al Fausan, who had spent

decades in Bombay as a businessman. Each time the King spoke to him, Al Fausan fell on his master's feet. Jawaharlal Nehru was both irritated and amused. I was attached to the Saudi delegation as liaison officer along with several others IFS officers.

His Majesty stayed in Rashtrapati Bhavan. The day after his arrival, Pandit Gobind Ballabh Pant, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (he spoke fluent Arabic) and C.D. Deshmukh were to call on the King between 11.30 am and 12.15 pm. The first to arrive was Maulana Azad. He waited but the King did not appear. Next followed Pandit Gobind Ballabh Pant at 11.45 am. His Majesty did not send for him. C.D. Deshmukh reached Rashtrapati Bhavan punctually at 12.15. The three senior ministers kept cooling their heels. At 12.30 the chief of protocol, I.S. Chopra, approached his Arab counterpart. He said to him, "Perhaps His Majesty was late getting ready. The ministers were busy men. Another time could be allotted to them to pay their respects to HM." Instead of apologising, the Arab chief of protocol answered, "His Majesty is never late. Your ministers have come too early."

Two days later the King and his delegation took a train to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. Night was spent in the train. The next day too was spent sight-seeing. By the afternoon, Mohammad Yunus, an IFS officer, a nephew of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and jailbird with Nehru during the Freedom Movement, arrived in Agra. He met His Majesty. Most deferentially and politely he informed the King what the princes had been up to at night. They had paid in gold bars for services rendered.

The word had got round and had caused the UP government great discomfiture. The response of the King was, "Give me the names of the miscreants. I will send their heads to Prime Minister Nehru."

The story of course is apocryphal. No such incident ever occurred. Yunus Bhai (that is what I called him) was an unmatched raconteur. He had invented this tale.

Winston Churchill in his memoirs of World War II has a splendid story about his meeting with His Majesty Ibn Saud on 17 February 1945 at the Fayyum Oasis near Cairo. Churchill had been told that Ibn Saud did not smoke or consume alcohol and did not approve of others doing so in his presence. This was conveyed to Churchill before the dinner he was

giving for the King. During the dinner Churchill told Ibn Saud, "...my religion prescribed as an absolute sacred rite smoking cigars and drinking alcohol before, after and if need be, during, all meals and the intervals between them."

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Memorandum of Conversation Between the King of Saudi Arabia (Abdul Aziz Al Saud) and President Roosevelt, February 14, 1945, Aboard the U.S.S. "Quincy"⁵

February 14, 1945

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I

The President asked His Majesty for his advice regarding the problem of Jewish refugees driven from their homes in Europe.⁶ His Majesty replied that in his opinion the Jews should return to live in the lands from which they were driven. The Jews whose homes were completely destroyed and who have no chance of livelihood in their homelands should be given living space in the Axis countries which oppressed them. The President remarked that Poland might be considered a case in point. The Germans appear to have killed three million Polish Jews, by which count there should be space in Poland for the resettlement of many homeless Jews.

His "Majesty then expounded the case of the Arabs and their legitimate rights in their lands and stated that the Arabs and the Jews could never cooperate, neither in Palestine,⁷ nor in any other country. His Majesty called attention to the increasing threat to the existence of the Arabs and the crisis which has resulted from continued Jewish immigration and the purchase of land by the Jews. His Majesty further stated that the Arabs would choose to die rather than yield their lands to the Jews.

His Majesty stated that the hope of the Arabs is based upon the word of honor of the Allies and upon the well-known love of justice of the United

States, and upon the expectation that the United States will support them.

The President replied that he wished to assure His Majesty that he would do nothing to assist the Jews against the Arabs and would make no move hostile to the Arab people. He reminded His Majesty [\[Page 3\]](#) that it is impossible to prevent speeches and resolutions in Congress or in the press which may be made on any subject. His reassurance concerned his own future policy as Chief Executive of the United States Government.

His Majesty thanked the President for his statement and mentioned the proposal to send an Arab mission to America and England to expound the case of the Arabs and Palestine. The President stated that he thought this was a very good idea because he thought many people in America and England are misinformed. His Majesty said that such a mission to inform the people was useful, but more important to him was what the President had just told him concerning his own policy toward the Arab people.

II

His Majesty stated that the problem of Syria and the Lebanon⁸ was of deep concern to him and he asked the President what would be the attitude of the United States Government in the event that France should continue to press intolerable demands upon Syria and the Lebanon. The President replied that the French Government had given him in writing their guarantee of the independence of Syria and the Lebanon and that he could at any time write to the French Government to insist that they honor their word. In the event that the French should thwart the independence of Syria and the Lebanon, the United States Government would give to Syria and the Lebanon all possible support short of the use of force.

III

The President spoke of his great interest in farming, stating that he himself was a farmer. He emphasized the need for developing water resources, to increase the land under cultivation as well as to turn the wheels which do the country's work. He expressed special interest in irrigation, tree planting and water power which he hoped would be developed after the war in many countries, including the Arab lands. Stating that he liked Arabs, he reminded His Majesty that to increase land under cultivation would decrease the desert and provide living for a larger population of Arabs. His Majesty thanked the President for promoting agriculture so vigorously, but said that he himself could not engage with any enthusiasm in the development of his country's agriculture and public works if this prosperity would be inherited by the Jews.

5. This memorandum was drawn up in an English and an Arabic version by Col. William A. Eddy, the Minister to Saudi Arabia, and Yusuf Yassin, the Saudi Arabian Deputy Foreign Minister. The Arabic text was signed by King Ibn Saud on February 14, and President Roosevelt signed the English text the next day at Alexandria. It was shown later to President Truman for his information.

Colonel Eddy, who accompanied King Ibn Saud on this journey and acted as interpreter during the conversation with President Roosevelt, subsequently wrote a description which was published under the title *F.D.R. Meets Ibn Saud* (New York, American Friends of the Middle East, Inc., 1954).

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6. For documentation on the concern of the United States over problems involving Jewish refugees in Europe, see [vol. II, pp. 1119 ff.](#)↩
7. For documentation on the attitude of the United States toward the Arab-Zionist controversy concerning Palestine and toward the question of Jewish immigration into Palestine, see [pp. 678 ff.](#)↩
8. For documentation on the policy of the United States regarding problems affecting the international status of Syria and Lebanon, see [pp. 1034 ff.](#)↩

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